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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, JO, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING - LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS

1. KING HUSSEIN CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE EARLY EVENING JULY 28. UK AMBASSADOR MOBERLY APSO PRESENT. KING PROVIDED US WITH DETAILED INFORMATION GLEANED FROM SYRIANS BY HIS CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE ON VISIT TO DAMASCUS TODAY. KING ALSO SHARED WITH US JORDANIAN ASSESSMENTS AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND SYRIAN DOCUMENT ON TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH PALESTINIANS. DETAILED INFORMAIION REPORTS FOLLOWS SEPTELS. THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS SUMMARY OF KINGS'S MAIN POINTS.

2. KING NOTED THAT SYRIANS STILL CONVINCED PALESTINIANS ARE STALLING AND BUYING TIME. THEY WILL NOT REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON LEBANON. THEY CHANGED THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION FOUR TIMES AFTER EACH TIME SYRIANS ATTEMPTED TO MEET THEIR POINTS.

3. SYRIA AND PLO APPARANTLY AGREE THAT THERE IS NO MILITARY SOLUTION POSSIBLE IN LEBANON AND THAT POLITICAL EFFORT MUST BE TRIED, BEGINNING WITH A CEASEFIRE.

4. PLO IS DEMANDING GUARANTEES THAT PALESTINIANS WILL BE REPRESENTED ON ANY COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORDS AND THAT NO ROUND-TABLE WILL TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER SARKIS REPLACES FRANJIEH. PLO ALSO WANTS TO BE ASSURED THAT ANY CABINET

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SARKIS FORMS WILL BE "BALANCED" AND THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL

GUARANTEE PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS" IN LEBANON.

5. SYRIANS BELIEVE THAT PALESTINIANS CANNOT REPLACE LEBANESE PARTIES AND THAT PALESTINIANS SHOULD DROP JUMBLATT'S LINE WHICH ONLY LEADS TO MORE FIGHTING. SYRIANS SAY THEIR ONLY GOALS NOW ARE TO END THE FIGHTING, PREVENT PARTITION AND INSURE THAT THE LEADERS OF THE RIGHT ARE ALSO ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. SYRIANS HAVE CONCRETE IDEA FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON FEBRUARY 14, 1976 AGREEMENTS.

6. BASIC TO SYRIAN CONCLUSION THAT PALESTINIANS ARE STALLING IS FACT THAT PLO REPRESENTATIVES MADE NO MENTION OF RESOLVING ISSUES OF PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS IN CURRENT TALKS AND THAT PLO REPS INSIST THAT AGREEMENT REACHED AT DAMASCUS MUST BE REFERRED TO "HIGHER AUTHORITIES" OF PLO IN BEIRUT AND THAT UNTIL NOW SUCH PLO AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT INDICATED THEIR FULL AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSED POINTS.

7. SYRIANS HAVE IDENTIFIED 3 IRAQI BATTALIONS IN LEBANON INCLUDING 400 MEN IN BEIRUT.

8. LEFT IN LEBANON, ACCORDING TO SYRIA, IS REPRESENTED BY COMMUNIST PARTY, PPS, AND LEBANESE COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY ALL DOMINATED BY SOVIETS, AND NOT BY JUMBLATT.

9. SYRIANS CERTAIN IRAQI WEAPONS AND REPLACEMENTS MOVE BY SEA FROM EGYPTIANS PORTS.

10. EGYPTIAN FORCES INCLUDE PLA AIN JALUYT BRIGADE AND SOME EGYPTIAN ARMY AND INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE IN ALEY AND BEIRUT.

11. SYRIANS CLAIM PLO USING PRESENCE WOUNDED IN TEL AL ZA'ATAR CAMP TO PREVENT RIGHTIST ATTACK AND THEREFORE DOES NOT WANT THEM EVACUATED.

12. SYTIANS CONTINUE TO CLAIM THAT SOVIETS ARE PUSHING IN WEAPONS AND THAT SOVIETS "CONTROL" TWO AIRPORTS BEING BUILT IN LEBANON AND ONE HELIPORT. SYRIANS CLAIM TO HAVE INTERCEPTED PDFLP - GC MESSAGE REFERRING TO SOVIET HEAVY WEAPONS COMING INTO SIDON. SYRIANS SAY ALSO THAT SHIPS UNDER FOREIGN FLAG ARE BRINGING IN
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WEAPONS FROM LIBYA.

13. ACCORDING TO KING, SYRIANS ALSO SAY THAT THERE ARE SOME CUBANS, EAST EUROPEANS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS NOW FIGHTING IN LEBANON.

14. SYRIAN CONCLUSION IS THAT PRESENT SITUATION IS VERY OMINOUS, THAT THEY EXPECT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT TO INCREASE AND THAT LEVEL OF FIGHTING ALSO LIKELY TO BE STEPPED UP. SYRIANS BELIEVE THAT EGYPT,

IRAQ AND SOVIETS ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY AGREED ON A FINAL OBJECTIVE,
AND APPARENTLY ARE ACTING ALONE TO GREAT EXTENT.

15. SYRIANS SPECIFICALLY WANTED JORDANIANS TO PASS ON THIS
INFORMATION TO THEIR WESTERN AND ARAB FRIENDS.

16. KING THEN REPORTED THAT JORDANIANS HAD INFORMATION THAT EGYPT
HAD RECENTLY SENT ASHRAF MARWAN TO SAUDIS ARABIA AND THE GULF TO SEEK
SUPPORT FOR MORE ACTIVE EGYPTIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

SAUDIS IN EFFECT RESPONDED BY COUNSELING AGAINST SUCH A STEP.
KING BELIEVES SAUDI ROLE CAN BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN BRINGING
EGYPTIANS TO THEIR SENSES AND URGES US CONTACTS WITH SAUDIS.

17. JORDAN HAD SEEN SOME SIGNS OF EGYPTIAN RECALL, BUT KING
CONCLUDED IT MIGHT WELL BE IN CONNECTION WITH LIBYAN TROOP
PROBLEM.

18. JORDANIANS CONCLUDE EGYPT WANTS TO WEAKEN SYRIA, PERHAPS TO
TRY TO STIMULATE OVERTHROW OF ASAD, AND ALSO AT SAME TIME TO
WEAKEN PLO.

19. SYRIANS MADE NO SPECIFIC REQUESTS OF JORDAN EXCEPT TO
PROMISE CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

20. KING ALSO PROVIDED US WITH A ROUGH TRANSLATION (SEPTEL TO
FOLLOW) OF THE BASIC SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ARRIVED
AT IN DAMASCUS AND FOR WHICH SYRIANS STILL WAITING FOR PLO
APPROVAL.

21. KING SAID THAT ASAD FEELS PRESSURE IS GETTING VERY HEAVY
ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HAVE NOT CUT OFF MILITARY SUPPLIES. ASAD
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CAN SPEAK HOWEVER OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE
TO CONTINUE ON HIS PRESENT COURSE. ASAD, KING SAID, CLEARLY
SEEKS THE MORAL SUPPORT AND REASSURANCE OF HIS FRIENDS AND
WHATEVER INDICATIONS THEY CAN GIVE HIM THAT IF THE SOVIETS
MOVE TO STEP UP THE PRESSURE AGAINST HIM, ESPECIALLY IN
CUTTING OFF MILITARY SUPPLY, THAT THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO
HIM.

22. BOTH BRITISH COLLEAGUE AND I UNDERTOOK TO REPORT KING'S
EXTENSIVE STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION AND TO PROVIDE ANY RESPONSES.
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